

# THE CHANUTE TRIBUNE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2009

## Farrell participates in Unknown Soldier ceremony



Jim Farrell, right, visits the Wall of Freedom on the Mall in Washington, D.C. The 4,000 stars each represent 100 U.S. military who died in World War II.

**Photo by  
Dave Williams**



Jim Farrell at the World War II Memorial.

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Dave Williams

### **Stu Butcher**

Tribune Editor

There it was — his name signed on a B-29 bomber in the Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian. It read James “the boss” Farrell. Funny, standing in front of it was Jim Farrell of Chanute, and he wasn’t a pilot.

The World War II veteran did, however, have a good time pointing out that it was a like name on the side of the plane.

That was just one experience Farrell enjoyed as part of last week’s Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

When four Kansas veterans were chosen to participate in the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Farrell was one of them.

“That was impressive, the four of us representing each branch of service,” Farrell said.

“It was quiet,” he said of the ceremony. “You could hear every word uttered by the guard. It was just an honorary thing.”

Farrell served in the U.S. Infantry from 1944-46 in France, Germany, Belgium and Luxemburg.

His unit was a part of the Battle of the Bulge, Ardennes Forest and the taking of the Remagen Bridge on the Rhine River.

“I don’t talk about the blood and guts,” he said, getting slightly emotional just of the mention of those events.

The first thing on his list of memories from last week’s trip was the World War II Memorial.

He attended the dedication in 2004, but there was such a crowd it limited viewing the site.

“We got there at 8 a.m. Tuesday morning and had full access,” Farrell said. “It’s at a real good location on the Mall. You can see the Washington Monument and at the other end the Lincoln Memorial.”

A block representing each state in order of their joining the Union stands tall at the Memorial.

Below the battles of WWII are listed in the granite. There is also a Wall of Freedom, with 4,000 gold stars, each representing 100 U.S. military who died in the war.

“The Wall of Freedom blew my mind,” Farrell said.

Farrell joined the service from his hometown of Wamego. There were six boys in the family and five were in the service at the same time.

“All made it home safely. Mom had five stars in the window,” Farrell said.